

Library

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1964

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

(a) Medical Officer of Health

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector

E.A. MORGAN,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(c) District Public Health Inspectors

J.T. GREEN,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

C.J. SMITH,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(To: 30/6/64)

L.A. CAWDRON,
M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I. (From: 13/7/64)

R.J. BAKER,
M.A.P.H.I.

(From: 27/7/64)

(d) Meat Inspector

S.W. LAWTON

(From: 1/5/64)

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964.

The Standardised Birth Rate (19.01) is higher than the National figure (18.4). The Stillbirth Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate both compare very favourably with the rates for England and Wales, whilst the Standardised Death Rate (8.72) is substantially lower than the Country's rate of 11.3.

In the detailed list of causes of Death it will be seen that there has been a fall in the number of deaths from "Stroke" (item 16 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System) and a rise in the number from Coronary disease and Angina.

Coronary disease, which is caused by an obstruction in the blood vessels supplying the muscle of the heart, is one of the scourges of present day life, as it kills and disables so many people in the 45 - 55 age group, a time of life when family and business responsibilities are especially heavy. Excess fat in the diet, the stress of modern living and lack of exercise have all been blamed as causes of this disease, but in none of them has the evidence so far put forward been conclusive. It is probable that each of these factors plays a part so he who would avoid a Coronary heart attack should avoid eating too much, should have a philosophy of life that will enable him to meet the stresses and strains of modern living with equanimity, and lastly should get out of his car and walk.

The winter of 1963 - 64 was relatively mild and the deaths from Pneumonia have fallen to 9. In the previous year with its Arctic weather conditions 26 deaths were recorded from this disease.

During the year I have had occasion to visit, in company with the Welfare Officer, a number of old people living alone in unsatisfactory conditions. In some instances the houses in which they lived were in a poor condition and in others there were old people for whom the ordinary household tasks were becoming almost too great a burden.

In a rural community such as ours there is always a movement of the younger people away to the towns and, as a result, many old people have no able-bodied younger relatives within easy reach in case of need.

Neighbours and Home Helps play a very valuable part in enabling some of these old persons to preserve their independence, which is what they all want to do. The 'Meals on Wheels' Scheme has done a great service to these people.

The project of grouped dwellings for old people in which they are accommodated in small bungalows with a resident Warden available should they need a helping hand is also worthy of mention.

For those who need more care there are now available Old Peoples Homes, run by the County Council, where many are cared for in the evening of life in a happy atmosphere. For those who are not fit enough to live in an Old Peoples Home, there are the Chronic Sick Hospitals, of which Stow Lodge is an example.

Why is it then that with all these facilities available some old people still live in appalling conditions? The answer is the great store they set by familiar and much loved surroundings, however unsuitable they may be; and by their desire to maintain their independence.

It is not for us to condemn this attitude, but rather to do all that we can to encourage and help them to look to the future and to make suitable arrangements whilst they are still relatively young and before they become too set in their ways.

For those who have fallen on evil times we have to sympathise, encourage and help in all possible ways. "Who is my neighbour?" asked a man, many years ago. Our neighbour is everywhere, perhaps old, unlovable, bad tempered, dirty, unco-operative, but needing our help, for which he may give us no thanks. If everyone lends a helping hand, the lot of our aged population will be a much happier one.

The continued support of the Public Health Committee has been a great encouragement during the past year. Mr. Morgan and all members of the Public Health Department have been most helpful and co-operative. A great deal of extra work was thrown on to the department owing to the outbreak of Food Poisoning at Stowmarket. As many of the victims lived in the Gipping Rural District very many visits had to be made to them by members of the Staff, but these were all accomplished most efficiently and cheerfully.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	78,464	acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...				20,800	
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	6,625	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£492,056	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..		...	...	£1,935	

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	198	168	366
Legitimate	188	161	349
Illegitimate	10	7	17

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

LIVE BIRTH RATE

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	17.60
Comparability factor	1.08
Standardised birth rate	19.01
Birth rate England and Wales	18.4
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	16.13
Stillbirth rate England and Wales	16.3

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	5	1	6
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	. . .	16.39
Infant mortality rate England and Wales	. . .	20.0

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	5	1	6
Legitimate.	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS

All causes:	Total	216
	Male	114
	Female	102

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population	10.38
Comparability factor	0.84
Standardised death rate	8.72
Death rate England and Wales	11.3

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Estimated population	19,150	19,530	20,030	20,160	20,540	20,800
Live Births	295	299	314	306	328	366
Crude Birth Rate	15.40	15.31	15.68	15.2	15.97	17.60
Standardised Birth Rate	16.79	16.69	17.09	16.6	17.25	19.01
Total Infant Deaths (under one year)	6	4	5	2	7	6
Infant Mortality Rate	20.34	13.38	15.92	6.53	20.96	16.39
Total Deaths	221	219	231	221	231	216
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	11.54	11.21	11.53	11.96	11.25	10.38
Standardised Death Rate	9.92	9.31	9.34	9.4	9.45	8.72

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

East Suffolk County	0.03
Gipping Rural District	Nil

CANCER DEATH RATE

East Suffolk County	2.23
Gipping Rural District	1.78

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH (REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES)

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1964</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1963</u>
1. Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-	1	3
2. Tuberculosis - other	-	-	-	1
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
5. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
7. Measles	-	-	-	1
8. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1	-
9. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2	1
13. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	5	22	19
14. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3	-
15. Diabetes	2	5	7	5
16. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	17	27	41
17. Coronary disease, angina	24	15	39	31
18. Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2	2
19. Other heart disease	15	23	38	36
20. Other circulatory disease	4	4	8	9
21. Influenza	-	-	-	2
22. Pneumonia	5	4	9	26
23. Bronchitis	4	4	8	8
24. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2	-
25. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	4	2	5
26. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	2
27. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
28. Congenital malformations	1	-	1	2
29. Other defined and ill defined diseases	9	12	21	18
30. Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	4	4
31. All other accidents	2	2	4	4
32. Suicide	2	-	2	2
	<u>114</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>231</u>

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1964

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Dysentery	-	-	-	3	3	16	-	-	20	1	1	-	44
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	23	30	11	2	2	3	21	25	1	-	11	23	152
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	5
TOTALS:	23	31	13	6	5	19	23	25	24	1	12	24	206

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1964

Disease	Age in years											Not known	Totals
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65+		
Dysentery	-	1	-	1	1	23	10	1	5	-	-	2	44
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	3	13	13	18	6	79	13	3	-	-	-	4	152
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Totals:	3	16	13	19	9	104	24	4	7	1	-	6	206

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE TOTALS FOR PAST SIX YEARS

Disease	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever	23	7	4	10	11	3
Whooping Cough	2	35	34	-	12	5
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	146	111	468	19	268	152
Acute Pneumonia	-	1	4	3	3	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	1	-	9	44
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	4	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	2	-	3	2	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	3	1	3	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

(1) New Cases notified:

Pulmonary (Lungs)	2	Males	2	Females
Non-Pulmonary (Glands, bones, joints)	-	Males	2	Females

(2) Ages of new cases:

Pulmonary:	Males	34, 72	Females	41, 47
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	6, 44

(3) Inward Transfers:

Pulmonary:	Males	One	Females	Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil

(4) Cases crossed off register as recovered during the year:

Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil
Non-Pulmonary	Males	One	Females	Nil

(5) Died during the year:

Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil

(6) Outward Transfers:

Pulmonary:	Males	One	Females	Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil

(7) Cases on register at end of year:

Pulmonary:	Males	39	Females	23
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	12	Females	15

(8) Tuberculosis Notification Rate - per 1,000 population

East Suffolk County	-	0.23
Gipping Rural District	-	0.29

(9) Statistics for the past six years:

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Primary Notifications	4	10	7	5	10	6
Transfers In	4	3	5	Nil	2	1
Notification Rate per 1,000 population	0.21	0.51	0.34	0.25	0.48	0.29
Deaths	Nil	1	3	3	5	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	Nil	0.05	0.14	0.15	0.24	Nil

FOOD POISONING

1. Notifications (corrected) returned to the Registrar General

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
-	6	22	1	29

2. Outbreaks due to identified agents

Total outbreaks - Nil Total cases - Nil

Outbreaks due to:-

(a)	Chemical Poisons	Nil
(b)	Salmonella Organisms	22
(c)	Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d)	Cl. Botulinum	Nil
(e)	Other bacteria (Shigella Sonnei)	16

3. Outbreaks of undiscovered cause

Total outbreaks - Nil Total cases - Nil

4. Single cases

Agent identified - 3

Unknown cause - Nil Total cases - 3

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS

(Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health)

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

(a)	Number of primary vaccinations in 1964	160
(b)	Number of revaccinations in 1964	51

IMMUNISATIONS

(a) Number of persons receiving primary immunisation in 1964 for:-

Diphtheria	. . . . .	-
Whooping Cough	. . . . .	-
Tetanus	. . . . .	19
Diphtheria/Tetanus	. . . . .	1
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	. . . . .	-
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	. . . . .	264

(b) Number of persons receiving boosters in 1964 for:

Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	324
-----------------------------------	-----------	-----

No separate figures are available for Poliomyelitis
Vaccinations carried out in this District.

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

WELL WATER CYANOSIS

Number of samples taken in 1964	. . . . .	7
Number considered safe	. . . . .	5
Number considered doubtful	. . . . .	2
Number considered unsafe	. . . . .	-

In both cases where the supply was not reported as safe, the persons concerned were advised where they could obtain an alternative supply.

WATER SUPPLIES

(A) Public Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

1. Samples of each of our bulk supplies which are taken from other local authorities (Cosford, Deben, Ipswich and Thedwastre) were all reported to be very satisfactory.
2. Samples from our public mains and borewells were as follows:-

Satisfactory	...	...	46
Unsatisfactory	...	...	-

Public Supplies - Chemical Analysis

1. Pumping Station, Kirby Rise, Barham

This water is of very good organic quality and the analysis as a whole differs little from that of the sample taken in 1963. This water contains only a negligible trace of iron and the total hardness is no higher than that of many waters in East Anglia. Suitable for drinking and general purposes.

2. 77, High Street, Needham Market

This sample is of good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The taste of the water was quite satisfactory, with no indication of anything abnormal. Although the water had been chlorinated, there was no taste of chlorine and no free chlorine present when the sample was analysed. The analytical characteristics of the water are in no way unusual. A trace of iron was present, but it did not give rise to any deposit on standing. It is just possible that a person with a sensitive palate might notice the slightly astringent taste of iron in solution, but most people would not notice this at all, and in any event it has no effect on health. Suitable for drinking and general purposes.

3. Pumping Station, Stowupland

The hardness of this sample was little more than half that of earlier samples. Other points of difference between this analysis and that of previous samples indicate that the character of the water is changing. It is still of good organic quality and, subject to the removal of heavy traces of iron, it is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

4. Pumping Station, Winston

This water is of very good organic quality, the somewhat ammoniacal nitrogen being a feature of this water. There is little difference between this analysis and that of the sample taken in 1963. The water is very hard, and some reduction in the total hardness would increase its suitability for general domestic purposes. The iron content is high and needs removal before the water can be put into supply. With these reservations this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

(B) Private Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

1.	<u>Borewells</u>	Satisfactory	10
		Unsatisfactory	4
2.	<u>Deepwells</u>	Satisfactory	1
		Unsatisfactory	1
3.	<u>Shallow-wells</u>	Satisfactory	1
		Unsatisfactory	4
4.	<u>Pond Supply</u>	Satisfactory	-
		Unsatisfactory	-

(C) The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is given below according to parish distribution:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from standpipes</u>
Ashbocking	69	25
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	47	-
Badley	17	-
Barham	183	6
Barking	104	-
Battisford	106	-
Baylham	60	-
Bramford	580	-
Buxhall	131	-
Claydon	218	-
Coddenham	155	-
Combs	157	-
Creeting St. Mary	208	18
Creeting St. Peter	45	-
Crowfield	85	26
Debenham	318	35
Flowton	25	-
Framsden	117	-
Gipping	25	-
Gosbeck	45	12
Great Blakenham	167	-
Great Bricett	31	13
Great Finborough	115	3
Haxleston	33	-
Hingham	316	25
Holringham	73	-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Levied on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from standpipes</u>
Hemingstone	38	3
Hanley	48	9
Little Blunham	34	-
Little Finborough	16	-
Mickfield	29	14
Needham Market	517	3
Hettlestead	27	-
Old Newton	181	-
Offton	64	-
Onehouse	119	-
Pettaugh	50	14
Ringshall	81	-
Shelland	29	-
Somersham	147	-
Stonham Aspal	108	50
Stonham Earl	148	9
Stonham Parva	72	42
Stowupland	416	-
Wetherden	153	-
Whitton	11	-
Willisham	76	-
Winston	41	9
<hr/>		
TOTALS	5,835	316
<hr/>		

FOOD

95 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year. Statistics relating to registrations under the Food and Drugs Act are as follows:-

Ice Cream - 55; Sausages, etc. - 6; Fish Frying - 6.

The number of food premises in the District are as follows:-

General Stores	58
Butchers	13
Bakers	5
Fishmongers (inc. Fish and Chips)	6
Greengrocers	7
Dairies	7
Cafes and Restaurants	8
Licensed Premises	50
Works Canteens	4
School Canteens	27
Confectioners	8

FOOD - Meat Inspection statistics are given below:-

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	BOARS PIGS SOWS
Number killed	1523	117	53	926	84,652
Number inspected*	1523	117	53	926	62,690
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	5	1	29	357
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	360	104	11	668	32,318
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	23.96	93.16	22.64	75.27	52.12

* Due to under-establishment from January 1st to April 30th, full-time meat inspection was not possible.

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	BOARS PIGS SOWS
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1340
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.14
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-

Freshly slaughtered meat found to be unsound at the time of inspection is stained with green dye and collected for processing by Contractors.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

By agreement with the East Suffolk County Council, Public Health Officers of the County Council are responsible for the routine sampling for examination of all milk supplied in this Rural District. In cases where infection is found restraint notices are served.

Examination of Milk Supplies

Statutory: 37 samples taken (including 7 school milks).
All results satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis: 15 samples taken (including 5 school milks).
All results satisfactory.

Biological: 53 samples taken.
Brucella abortus isolated from 16 samples.

Antibiotics: 42 samples taken.
5 samples found to contain antibiotics.

HOUSING

Summary of Housing Activities

Number of houses inspected	128
Number found to be unsatisfactory	104
Number rendered fit by (a) informal action .	75
(b) action under Public Health Act	3
(c) action under Housing Act	nil
Number of Demolition Orders secured'	15
Number of dwellings included in Clearance Areas secured.	nil
Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders	10
Number of dwellings demolished under Clearance Orders	nil
Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
Housing Act, 1949 - Number of Improvement Grants (Discretionary and Standard) approved	89

HOUSING (Continued)

I am indebted to Mr. J. Black, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following reports:-

(a) Council Houses

Completed	30
Under construction (31.12.64)	42
Total completed (post war)	732

(b) Private Houses (Permanent)

Completed	362
Under construction (31.12.64)	281
Total completed (post war)	1196

(c) Private Houses (Temporary)

Completed	nil
Under construction (31.12.64)	nil
Total completed (post war)	27

Grand Total of Housing Units completed in the post-war period to 31st December, 1964 is, therefore, 1955.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Schemes in progress

Creeping St. Mary
Haughley
Old Newton

Schemes contemplated

Coddenham
Combs and Battisford
Creeping St. Peter
Great Finborough and Buxhall
Somersham.

